

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House
(317) 232-9855

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6910

BILL NUMBER: HB 1287

DATE PREPARED: Dec 20, 2001

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Tree Trimming by Utilities.

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FUNDS AFFECTED: ☒ **GENERAL**
☒ **DEDICATED**
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill requires an electric utility to follow the standards of the American National Standards Institute in performing any tree cutting activity. The bill requires an electric utility to adopt dispute resolution procedures for property owners affected by the utility's tree cutting activity. The bill requires that the procedures allow affected property owners to appeal any resolution reached to the utility regulatory commission. It requires a utility to give at least 21 days notice of planned tree cutting activity to: (1) the county or municipal executive of the area where the activity will occur; and (2) affected property owners. The bill prohibits a utility from performing tree cutting activity while a dispute or appeal is pending. It allows a utility to perform tree cutting activity without giving notice or while a dispute or appeal is pending if the activity is necessary to restore service in an emergency.

Effective Date: July 1, 2002.

Explanation of State Expenditures: This bill could increase the administrative burden of the Commission if it requires the IURC to devote time and resources to settle disputes over tree cutting that were not resolved through the dispute resolution procedure proposed in the bill. Any impact on the Commission is expected to be absorbed using existing staff and resources.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: The bill could increase the administrative burden of municipal and county executives in so far as they would be required to file and make available for public inspection notices sent by utilities regarding tree cutting in areas under their jurisdiction. The impact of this provision on these offices is expected to be minimal.

Municipally owned utilities would be subject to the provisions of this bill.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission; Office of the Utility Consumer Counselor.

Local Agencies Affected: Municipally Owned Utilities; Municipal and County Executives.

Information Sources: